

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing of the above-identified application. In particular, claims 1 and 7 have been amended so that no new matter has been added.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 27, 2004. Applicants respectfully point out that the concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by the submitted English-language version of the search report which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office (see MPEP page 600-153, second column, last two lines through page 600-154, first column, lines 1-6).

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for a reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

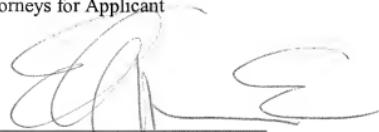
If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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